

Lights in the Darkness

The romantic allure of lighthouses has endured for centuries. Our love of lighthouses runs so deep that we have preserved and protected 700 in the United States, and even designated August 7 as Lighthouse Day. As beacons of light in the treacherous darkness, lighthouses are steadfast symbols of safety and reliability, characteristics that we value. Lighthouses are monuments to the human condition: the sea of collective humanity consists of drops, individual and unique. We, like lighthouses, exist to shine our light upon others.

Throughout history, no light has shone brighter than the Pharos of Alexandria. Egypt's lighthouse was both the first and largest of its kind ever built. Rising 330 feet tall, a massive mirror reflected the sun by day, while bonfires lit its apex by night. Sailors could spy its light from 30 miles away. Modern lighthouses act as warnings of rocky coastlines or hidden reefs, but Pharos acted as a grand entrance marker to Alexandria's port, a hub of commerce, technological innovation, and free thought. Built in 280 BC, Pharos stood for 1,600 years, earning renown as a Wonder of the World and surviving three earthquakes before toppling into the sea. In a sense, all the world's lighthouses are descendants of that world wonder, and those who study lighthouses and their signal lights are proudly called *pharologists*, in memory of great Pharos.

"Start every day with a new hope. Leave bad memories behind and have faith for a better tomorrow."
- *Unknown*

Decoding History

August 14 is Code Talkers Day, a day to recognize the invaluable contributions of the World War II Navajo code talkers. Using a complex Navajo-based code, these cryptographers encoded and transmitted messages to American forces working in the Pacific theater. The encoded language was so unique that it was never cracked by the Japanese. While tremendous gratitude is owed to the famed Navajo code talkers of World War II, they were not the first Native American code talkers to be employed by the U.S. military. During World War I, a small group of Cherokee soldiers from western North Carolina were attached to British troops fighting the Germans off the west coast of France. When it was discovered that the Germans were intercepting communications, the Cherokee cleverly volunteered to transmit messages in their native language. The soldiers had guessed correctly. The Germans could not translate the communications. This tactic proved so effective that it was reused during World War II. The Navajo may be the most famous of the code talkers, but they were in no way alone. Native speakers of Comanche, Assiniboine, Cree, Meskwaki, Mohawk, Muscogee, and Tlingit also provided unbreakable code for U.S. forces. The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 finally recognized every Native American code talker with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Happy Birthday!

Larry I.

8/10

August 2021

Townehall Place News & Events



4460 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

August Birthdays

In astrology, those born August 1–22 are Leo's Lions. These "kings of the jungle" are natural-born leaders, full of creativity, confidence, and charisma. Those born August 23–31 are Virgo's Virgins. Virgos pay attention to details and like to keep things organized. Their deep sense of humanity and love of others makes them defenders of justice, goodness, and purity.

Jason Momoa (actor) – August 1, 1979
Barack Obama (president) – August 4, 1961
Whitney Houston (singer) – August 9, 1963
Viola Davis (actress) – August 11, 1965
Magic Johnson (athlete) – August 14, 1959
Angela Bassett (actress) – August 16, 1958
Kobe Bryant (athlete) – August 23, 1978
Kenny Rogers (Musician) – August 21, 1938
Katherine Johnson (physicist) – August 26, 1918
Buddy Hackett (comedian) – August 31, 1924

Contacts

Resident Care Director- Tashe Beard
Business Office Manager- Lanor Jablonski
Activities Director- Ariel Starr
Dietary Services Director- Mike Namet
Environmental Services Director- Jeff Cope
Community Relations Director- Annette Rogers



A U G U S T

- *National Dog Month
- *International Peace Month
- *National Golf Month
- *National Wellness Month
- *National Sandwich Month
- *Peach Month
- *State Fair Month